

Meeting Minutes – Community Assessment Response Task Force

October 9, 2013 – HSCA – 7:00 p.m.

1. Additions to the Agenda

a. Grant offers

Grants for more funding are out. The deadline is Oct. 25. A Good option if we explore new initiatives that we came up with from the survey. Karla has a list of common ideas the community has responded with.

b. Bowness door-to-door

Bowness is also going door with their survey and they're going to sit down soon and come up with a reaction plan for next year. We are invited to come, share our ideas and vice versa. There could be a great collaborative opportunity here.

2. United Way Day of Caring

- ### a. United Way doesn't have anything narrowed down in terms of an exact date. The company isn't able to act in October and are still planning for November. However some businesses are interested in being trained to help going door-to-door. How do we go about doing that? We need to train them, suggest times and get a number of volunteers. We'll provide regular surveys and stamped envelopes so we can leave them in the mailbox when they're not home. Apartment and condo (below grade and at grade) units need to be accessed. We plan to talk to caretakers and landlords to get access and then slip surveys under the door. Bottom line is we have to get the surveys done by the end of October. Kerri is going to contact Heather from United Way to confirm training details (most likely a weekday training). We have about 500 homes left to be visited by surveyors, we're going to ask for 30 or so volunteers.

3. Partnership with the province

The province is happy with what they got done. Approximately 100-200 surveys were handed out on the weekend of the 28th while handing out DRP funding information. They are pretty much done going door-to-door in Sunnyside and have moved on to Bowness. They said they are interested in partnering for a long-term period. They have interest in mental health (Alberta Health) and children's initiatives. We need to continue our partnership to access what they have to offer; we want to work with anyone we can. We need to learn more about available programs.

4. Survey Update

a. Fall Fair event

b. 240 done and entered, 60% of the neighbourhood has been contacted in some way

c. New themes: What are we doing with our donated funds? We want to give it to those who had inadequate insurance and need DRP funding. Because DRP is bargain basement funding, there is still a lot that it doesn't cover. How many people in our community

applied for DRP? If it's less than 30, we can help. Karla will draft up an application. We can post it on social media and the website to find out what the need is. People who have applied for DRP can now apply. It can be done online, or over the phone. Make a soft deadline, like November 30. Criteria: have you applied for DRP? Have you received anything from DRP? Do you think your insurance is adequate? "Nominate your neighbour."

- d. If worst comes to worst and United Way doesn't work out, we'll drop them off in mailboxes to make sure we've hit every house.
 - e. Requesting to have a booth at the polling station.
5. Response
- a. Responding to children's needs: The government is helping in the future, we want to do more research on what we should do.
 - b. Calgary Foundation funding: there could be funding available for community building in our neighbourhood, get community members to contact us if they have any ideas. This is a way to draw community in. Develop a community action plan, volunteer recognition, community party and community notice board.
 - c. Common Survey findings

6. New Survey Themes: Needs and Responses

Infrastructure Development Related

- General comments about building infrastructure
- Advocacy work improved infrastructure/ stop density increases until infrastructure is updated
- Research what infrastructure needs updating with City
- Work collaboratively with City
- Install Ground Water Monitoring wells (online)
- Upstream mitigation
- Restart flood committee

Information Dissemination

- Hold information meetings
- DRP to go door to door

Flood Preparation

- Organize a community response for next flood event
- Organize community sandbagging
- Block watch
- Increase warning time before evacuation
- Hold a session on disaster preparedness
- Info session on flood proofing

- Adopt a senior for future flood events

Mental Health

- Mental health in general is a concern
- Children in need of support
- Free yoga
- Need to talk honestly about the flood (not just hero/victim stories)

Environment

- Plant trees and flowers

Individual Need Response

- Support seniors or residents who still need help
- Support with finding contractors

Community

- Commemorate the crisis cafe
- Have volunteer recognition
- Community party on anniversary of the flood

Post-flood Evidence

- Lawn debris/ mud
- Outhouses (early surveys)
- Path repairs needed
- Side walk and road repairs needed
- Vacant homes
- Smell

Future Prevention

- Infrastructure/Structural changes
 - Berms and infrastructure changes (in general)
 - Dredging river/development of second reservoir
 - Changes to building codes
 - Elevate streets that are at low points
- Develop a community flood plan in general
 - Training locals how to respond
 - Develop an evacuation plan (prevent street congestion)
 - Sandbagging

- Warning systems like block watch system in place/better neighbourhood communication strategy, better notifications from the City, need for warning on if power will go out
- Resources like access to backup generators/pumps/other supplies
- Research /Knowledge
 - Study links to climate change, research what other communities have done

Allocated Funds

- Lobbying for changes (infrastructure)
- Give to people who have been affected (have them register)
 - For people who are low income
 - For people who are seniors/ or people with disabilities
 - For people who do not have insurance coverage
 - For residents who have been impacted more than once
 - For people whose homes are unsalvageable
 - Renters in need
- Needed supplies (fans and sump- pumps)
- Beatification projects
- Mental health and healing
- Children traumatized by flood
- Put it towards infrastructure
- Needs identified in the survey
- Air quality